

Mr. McMaster asked what was the difference between the system of the city and the counties.

Mr. Vansant said the difference was that the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore appoint the commissioners. He was not, however, speaking of the system created by the act of 1865, but the system anterior to that. The system of Baltimore was the boast and pride of her citizens. The graduates from the male and female high schools had reflected the greatest credit and honor on the system under which they were educated, and numbers of them had filled the very highest positions, both public and private.

Mr. Nicolai had the highest appreciation of the school system of Baltimore. It was but natural that he should, having been one of the recipients of its benefits. It was his hope and desire to secure this system in the future, but he thought this whole subject was one that properly belonged to the Legislature, and therefore could not vote for any of the amendments.

The amendment of Mr. Morris was then rejected.

Mr. Gill moved to amend the first section by adding, "Provided that the General Assembly shall give to the city of Baltimore, if not inconsistent with the efficient promotion of education throughout the State, a separate and independent system of public schools."

A lengthy debate ensued on the amendment, after which it was rejected by a vote of 76 to 20.

Many members who voted in the negative expressed themselves as in favor of Baltimore city having a separate system, but entertained no idea that the system of Baltimore would ever be interfered with.

No further amendments being offered to the first section, section 2 was read and passed to a second reading.

The third section was then read, and no amendments being offered, the article was, on motion of Mr. Rider, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The report is as follows, just as it came from the committee:

Section 1. The General Assembly, at its first session